THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

NEWS

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One of Brazil's Greatest Contemporary Composers Makes Ohio Debut at the Cleveland Museum of Art on April 8

"Guinga is the most astonishing Brazilian composer today." — O Globo

CLEVELAND (March 16, 2005) — A true master of his country's vast and beautiful musical heritage, award-winning Brazilian composer **Guinga**, will perform at the Cleveland Museum of Art's (CMA) **Gartner Auditorium on Friday, April 8, 2005, at 7:30 p.m.** This performance is part of the Museum's popular **VIVA! Festival of Performing Arts** series.

Admission for the performance is $28 and $25; $25 and $22 for CMA members. Tickets are available by calling 216-421-7350 or 1-888-CMA-0033 or online at www.ClevelandArt.org.

Guinga, one of Brazil's virtuoso guitarists, prefers to think of himself as a composer rather than a songwriter. Not a vocalist in the traditional sense, he begrudgingly sings over his own compositions, and as he explains, "only a song's composer knows best how to extract the full measure of its meaning."

Beginning his career as a dentist in 1975, Guinga, who still keeps office hours twice a week, initially received attention from some of Brazil's elite singers in the late 1970s when the legendary vocalist Elis Regina recorded his work. Guinga's songwriting was showcased more than a decade later on the 1992 Grammy winning album "Brasileiro," by pianist Sergio Mendes who often presented works by emerging Brazilian artists.

Born Carlos Althier de Souza Lemos Escobar he received the nickname "Guinga" during his childhood from an aunt who called him "Gringo" because of his pale complexion. The little boy repeated "Guinga," a name that the adult Escobar appreciates for its conciseness, musicality and African sound.

Growing up in Rio de Janeiro, Guinga realized at the age of 13 that his destiny lay in making music. A self-taught guitarist, his natural talent quickly took hold with some of his early compositions qualifying for Brazil's International Song Festival.

Not easily categorized, Guinga's music touches both the vast tradition and the contemporary musical idioms that identify with Brazilian music, working with familiar rhythms such as *samba*, *baião*, *frevo*, *toada*, *waltz*, as well as a blues influence. It is *choro* that most influences Guinga's style. A highly improvised Brazilian style, *choro* is being revisited and reinvented by many of Brazil's best musicians.

(more)

Over the years, Guinga has gained great recognition and has recorded and performed with virtually all the important musicians of the times including: João Nogueira, Beth Carvalho, Clara Nunes, Alaíde Costa, Elis Regina, Essa Mulher and Cartola. His most recent CD release, "Cine Baronesa" is inspired by his personal memories of Rio de Janeiro. Guinga will appear with his quartet.

The next and final performance in the VIVA! Festival of Performing Arts will be **Dancers and Musicians of Bali: Çudamani on Friday, April 22, 2005, at 7:30 p.m. in the Museum's Gartner Auditorium**. This 25-member ensemble of dancers and musicians is the latest phenomenon to emerge from Bali, a land famed for its hauntingly beautiful performing arts. Tickets are available by calling 1-888-CMA-0033 or online at www.ClevelandArt.org.

The Museum receives operating support from the Ohio Arts Council and the Institute for Museum and Library Services. Promotional support for VIVA! is provided by Northern Ohio Live and WKSU 89.7 FM.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive Museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 6,000 years. The Museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the Museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.

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